

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	School Green Land
Country	Kyrgyzstan
Organisation	Youth Ecological Movement "BIOM", "Field Studies Council"
Project Ref. No.	162/11/024
Report date	31 October 2002

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

Against the agreed baseline timetable for the project, we have got the following progress:

a) The Inception Visit

The Inception visit took place in Bishtek from 8 – 14 July. During this Inception visit to Kyrgyzstan FSC and BIOM have not only worked on planning project activity for the first six months, but also have visited a number of governmental and international organizations (such, as the Ministry of Environment and Emergency Situations, National Forest Service, "Life" program (program of UNDP and governments of Sweden, Germany and Holland), UNDP, Counterpart Consortium (program of USAID), Swiss Cooperation Office with the purpose of involving as many stakeholders to the project as possible.

As a result, many of these organizations have already given the project good support:

- The Ministry of Education and Culture of Kyrgyzstan has rendered fissile information and political support to BIOM – the officers of the ministry have submitted to BIOM the database of schools for distribution the information about the project and have delivered the letters of support in to all regional departments of the Ministry with the request of the deputy Minister of Education of Kyrgyzstan to render to the project multifold support).
- The "Life" program is going to render additional financial support to schools – participants of the project in the south of Kyrgyz Republic.
- Counterpart Consortium, "Soros-Kyrgyzstan" Foundation and Konrad Adenauer Foundation have rendered major support at distribution of the information about the project "School Green Lands" through the networks of their regional offices in Kyrgyzstan (more, than 30 centers of these organizations were involved).
- The Ministry of Environment and Emergency Situations has submitted BIOM the opportunity to make presentation about the project "School Green Lands" on all conferences and meetings, which were organized by ministry lately (4 presentations were done in all 4 events).
- There are opportunities for support of the project from World Bank, UNESCO and Project of Global Ecological Foundation on Climate Change.

b) After the Inception visit we focused on two activities:

(i) The Creation of our Team

We managed to select the strong Development Team for realization of the project. Except people from BIOM, there are representatives from 4 NGO of Kyrgyzstan in it, and all these people have ecological background, balanced skills and wide experience in working with schools. About major potential of the selected Development Team speaks not only legible execution of activity, scheduled on the project, but also huge desire of members to personal

growth and self-development. For this purpose the Development Team organize different events, directed on self-education, getting knowledge and skills for better work on the project.

(ii) Advertising the Project

Instead of ordinary distribution of the information about the project to schools of Kyrgyzstan in order to organize the competition, it was solved to organize real PR-company:

- The information on the project and competition was delivered in all schools of Kyrgyzstan (2032 schools)! Thus, the high level (almost 100 %) of information distribution among the target group of the project was reached.
- The delivered information was made like beautiful colored Newsletter, which included the description of the project, rules of competition for schools, and also the information about Darwin Foundation, FSC and BIOM. Thus, all schools of Kyrgyzstan have got the information about our organizations.
- Besides the Newsletter included questionnaire "How well do you know the biodiversity of Kyrgyzstan?", which can be used by teachers at the lessons. Thus, the delivered information will be useful to teachers anyway - whether they will take part in the project or not.
- 4 articles about the project in mass-media of Kyrgyzstan and 2 articles in mass-media of UK were already released.

c) Study Visit to the UK 13-20 October 2002

8 members of the BIOM Development Team visited the UK for 7 days, and spent time planning the development of the micro biodiversity areas in detail, and visiting examples of biodiversity education good practise in the UK. This included visits to Schools, Natural History Museum, CAT, London Ecology Centre, Bishops Wood Education Centre and DEFRA. One of the major outcomes of the visit was to re-evaluate what a micro biodiversity reserve is and how it should be used in education. The main conclusion was that the project needed to ensure that the reserves were developed and used within the context of sustainable development. A full report of the visit is available.

d) After the Study Visit to the UK

(i) Apply to success in working with local communities, there are some possibilities for inclusion of schools activity on creation of microreserves into the Schedules of development of territories within the framework of the major project on development of local self-management in Kyrgyzstan, realized by government and "Soros-Kyrgyzstan" Foundation.

Also we have received the greater response from NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, than it was expected at the beginning of the project. After special meeting, organized by BIOM for NGOs in order to inform them about the project, many NGOs have prepared the support letters to schools, which they work with, and showed the huge interest to the project and desire to participate in it jointly with schools.

(ii) We managed to attract to realization of the project a great many of volunteers (12 people) – they were specially trained on the seminar, organized by Development Team after the Study Visit to Great Britain. At the present moment volunteers render major support for the project.

(iii) We managed to receive from schools of Kyrgyzstan major response, that testifies their interest to the project and desire to participate in it.

(iv) At the present moment there are 126 applications from schools in office BIOM. It means, that each 16-th school of Kyrgyzstan wants to be involved to the project.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments, that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No problems

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

No.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland.
Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk